(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Ministry of Environment & Forests on the recommendation of Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife in its 16th Meeting on 16.09.2009 has granted permission for undertaking survey and investigation involving an area of 2.5 hectare only against the area of 92,500 ha of Periyar Tiger Reserve subject to compliance of certain conditions as envisaged by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Kerala. However, no such proposal from Kerala Government seeking permission for undertaking forest survey for construction of a new dam in the Mullaperiyar reservoir area has been received under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

National Environment Protection Authority

324. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed to set up a statutory regulatory body the National Environment Protection Authority(NEPA) to grant clearances and enforce regulation under the Environment Protection Act, 1986;

(b) if so, whether the proposed regulatory body would function under the appellate supervision by a National Green Tribunal;

(c) if so, whether the Central Pollution Control Board and its state units would continue to function under the proposed NEPA; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) to (d) The proposal to set up a National Environment Protection Authority (NEPA) to strengthen compliance and enforcement of environmental statutes and to improve environmental planning and management is in a conceptual stage. A discussion paper on the proposed NEPA has been uploaded in the Ministry's Website and suggestions/comments are being received from various stakeholders. The proposal is in a primary stage and the configuration and scope of the proposed Authority is yet to be finalized.

Introduction of Bt. Brinjal

325. SHRI P. RAJEEVE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had made any scientific studies on introduction of Bt. Brinjalus into Indian market;

(b) if so, whether the expert committee made effective consultation with the scientists, agricultural experts, farmers organizations, consumer groups and NGOs; and